



Beginning in March 2010, more than 130 million households across the nation will receive a census questionnaire. Required once every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution, the census will count every person living in the United States. This includes citizens, noncitizens, immigrants, college students, elderly, homeless, children, friends and families living in the same household.

Participating in the 2010 Census is easy, safe, and important. In fact, this year's form asks 10 questions and takes 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Social Security Administration or any other government agency. In addition, for the first time in history, forms will be available upon request in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Russian. There will also be Questionnaire Assistance Centers available to help those who cannot read or do not understand the form.

The census is important because it not only determines the Congressional representation given to each state, but also the amount of federal funding distributed to each state. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to state and local governments based on census data. Census information can benefit you, your family, and your community by helping to determine the distribution of federal funds for community services like school lunch programs, senior centers, schools, hospitals and highways. This data literally shapes our communities.

By participating in the census, you can help create a better future for you and those important to you. To learn more, visit the [census website](#).

